

TO : FSI - Mr. Norman Burns

March 31, 1952

FROM : FSI - Henry Lee Smith, Jr.

SUBJECT: Task force report on Near East language-and-area program

A. The problem

The necessity of strengthening the programs for the Government's language and area specialists has long been a concern of the Staff of the Foreign Service Institute. Though the Institute's primary concern is in connection with the programs for Foreign Service Officers and Foreign Service Staff Officers, many other categories of personnel are involved, including persons from the Department itself, from IIA, from CIA, from the military services, and quite probably from TCA and MSA. Not all of these officers need programs of the same length or intensity and some require instruction in fields not required by others.

In the past, the Institute has split the instructional load between its own resources and the resources of the universities for most officers, though some officers have been trained only at the Institute and some only at universities. In addition advanced programs for Japanese and Chinese have been carried out by branches of the Institute overseas.

Examination of the results of the instructional programs over the past five years has led to the conclusion that the university programs, though quite adequate for certain aspects of instruction not given up to now at the Institute, are by and large not satisfactory for the special needs and requirements of Government language-and-area specialists. The inherent limitations of university programs has led the Institute to plan for more intensive and better integrated programs in Washington to be followed by further instruction at installations to be established overseas. The following proposal is intended as a pilot program for the kind of instructional program now envisaged. Since more Institute staff members have had academic and field experience in the Near East than in any other area it was deemed advisable to set up a plan for an instructional program for this area.

B. The proposed plan of instruction

1. In general, intensive language and area instruction for this area for a fully trained officer should take twenty-four months exclusive of travel and statutory leave. It is planned to divide the instruction equally between the Institute and the Field Installation, with one year at each. Officers of the Foreign Service would enter the Institute for six months of intensive language instruction, beginning the first Monday each March, in Arabic (or Turkish or Persian). This six-months course would be accompanied by seminars in linguistics and in the integrated social science approach to the study of society and culture. At its conclusion at the end of August, formal classes would stop for the month of September. (Details of this course appear below.)

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4. The second year would be conducted by Institute staff members at the overseas Installation. The Installation would initially be staffed by an anthropologist, a linguist, an administrative officer, at least one clerk-typist, and such additional specialists as might be required and feasible. The staff would alternate between duty at the Institute and at the Installation. Instruction would consist largely of advanced language work, particularly with documents, and area lectures and seminar discussions based on actual trips and experiences in the field. Here also evaluations of the working of governmental programs would be undertaken and methods for their improvement discussed. Where feasible outside lectures from local educational institutions and government agencies will be called on for special sessions.

5. Although the Installation program is designed primarily for Foreign Service Officers who are being trained for work in various overseas programs, its services would be available (through a short course) to meet the special needs of personnel engaged in operating programs in the area. (Details of the Installation programs appear below).

A reading list for this part of the course will be provided.

b. During the six months of intensive language instruction there will be one two-hour seminar a week devoted to systematic social science analysis, and its relevance to the work of the Foreign Service.

The first 13 sessions will be devoted to reading and discussion in this field, and the last six to specific materials on the Arabic Near East. Each officer will give an oral presentation of the application of social science analysis to one of the countries of the area - utilizing either his own observations in the field and such published materials as are available.

Seminar Topics

1. The Field of the social sciences.
2. Cultural and psychological factors in international relations I
3. Cultural and psychological factors in international relations II
4. Learning theory: related to growth of civilization.
5. Learning theory: related to historic continuities.
6. Social organization: stratification, status and role.
7. Social organization: The major institutions.

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8. Social organization: structure and function-relationship among the major institutions.
9. Economic institutions: their variety and functions.
10. Political institutions: their variety and functions.
11. Cultural change and historical change.
12. Trend analysis: foreign service observation and reporting.
13. The United States: cultural backgrounds.
14. The United States: institutional structure.
15. Source materials for the officer in the field: direct observation.
16. Source materials for the officer in the field: symbolic materials.
17. Criteria of validity: pattern phenomena.
18. Criteria of validity: statistical data and probability.

Bibliography

Readings will be assigned from the following texts:

Linton, Ralph	The Study of Man (esp. pp. 80-172, 209-253, 324-367)
Linton, Ralph Editor	The Science of Man in World Crisis (esp. articles by Kluckhohn, Mardoch, Hallowell)
Davis, Kingsley	Human Society (esp. 435-508 621-636)
Gillin, John	The Ways of Man (esp. 221-251, 621-636)
Bennett and Tumin	Social Life (esp. Chap. on Social Structure)
Leighton, Alexander	The Governing of Man (esp. pp. 247-367)
Leighton, Alexander	Human Relations in A Changing World (esp. 99-218)
Kluckhohn, Clyde	Mirror for Man (esp. last 2 chapters)
Lasswell, Harold	The Policy Sciences (articles by Lasswell, Rothwell, Mead)
Parsons, Talcott	The Social System
Klineberg, Otto	Tensions Affecting International Understanding
Almond, Gabriel	The American People and Foreign Policy

A series of articles reprinted from journals will also be read and discussed.

The last six weeks are to be devoted to systematic reading of a series of "must" books (to be listed) and to six two-hour seminars:

(a) Seminars:

- 19 Culture areas in the Near East
- 20 Culture areas in the Near East
- 21 The peoples of the Near East
- 22 The family and the clan
- 23 The individual in the culture
- 24 Evaluation of the reading materials

2. Interim course. A one-month program, in September of each year.

a. Linguistics (equal to L400x, special course in linguistics). Sixteen sessions of two hours each, covering the following topics:

First week: three sessions - introduction; language and culture; hierarchy of the sciences, and the field of linguistics.

Second week: five sessions - Languages of the Near East; phonetics; phoneme theory; English vowels; English consonants.

Third week: four sessions - stress and juncture; intonation; morphology; superfixes.

Fourth week: four sessions - Syntax I and II; metalinguistics, kinesics; discussion and summary.

b. Social science analysis. Nineteen sessions of two hours each, covering the following topics:

First week: four sessions - cultural and psychological factors in international relations; culture; pattern phenomena; explicit and implicit patterns; levels of analysis.

Second week: five sessions - problems of social organization; major institutional structures; stratification; status and role; structural-functional analysis.

Third week: five sessions - culture, society, the individual; political institutions; economic institutions; geographic base, resources, and technology.

Fourth week: five sessions - cultural change and historical change; trend analysis and the observation and reporting of the foreign service; United States interests; United States assumptions.

3. Intermediate course.

a. Five months semi-intensive intermediate Arabic course. Approximately 190 hours of study of modern newspaper Arabic, consisting of memorisation of 500 typical sentences, reading of newspaper selections, drill on 1500 frequently occurring vocabulary items, and discussion of Classical Arabic grammar. Approximately 100 hours of conversation in spoken Arabic on selected topics.

b. Area seminars and discussions. Three hours every afternoon for four months, the morning being devoted to Arabic language and linguistics for those taking that part of the work.

1st week

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|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Political significance of NE | L. Jones, NE |
| 2 | Military significance of NE | Lecturer from National War College |
| 3 | Geography of NE | L. Black, FSI |
| 4 | Peoples of NE | E. Kennard or K. Lewis, FSI |
| 5 | Languages of NE | C. Ferguson or F. Rice, FSI |

2nd week

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| 1-2 | Ancient Near East | E. Wright, NEA and H. Glidden, DRN |
| 3-4 | The Spread of Islam | " " |
| 5 | The Turkish and Persian Empires..... | " " |

3rd week

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| 1 | The Ottoman Empire | E. Wright, NEA and H. Glidden, DRN |
| 2 | European penetration to 1914 | " " |
| 3-5 | World War I and the emergence of the modern states..... | " " |

4th week

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| 1 | The Mandate Period (1920-1940)..... | E. Wright, NEA and H. Glidden, DRN |
| 2 | World War II and the Arab League..... | " " |
| 3-5 | Contemporary Developments..... | " " |

5th week

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| 1-5 | Culture patterns and social structure:
The tribe..... | E. Kennard and K. Lewis, FSI |
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6th week

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| 1 | The village: physical structure..... | E. Kennard and K. Lewis, FSI |
| 2 | The village: contemporary technology..... | " " |
| 3 | The village: village economy..... | " " |
| 4 | The village: life cycle..... | " " |
| 5 | The village: annual cycle..... | " " |

7th week

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| 1 | The village: family - structure and functions | " " |
| 2 | The village: religious institutions..... | " " |
| 3 | The city: political capital and cultural center..... | " " |
| 4 | The city: economy - manufacture, trade, finance..... | " " |
| 5 | The city: social classes..... | " " |

8th week

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| 1 | The city: national functions..... | " " |
| 2 | The city: international functions..... | " " |
| 3-5 | Current trends in Islam | W. Cleland, OIR or
Majid Khadduri, SAIS |

9th week

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| 1-5 | Current trends in Islam..... | W. Cleland, OIR or
Majid Khadduri, SAIS |
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10th week - 16th week: Current political and economic problems in the Near East.

10th week

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| 1-2 | Current trends in Islam..... | W. Cleland, OIR or
Majid Khadduri, SAIS |
| 3 | Egypt, political..... | NE desk officer |
| 4 | Egypt, economic..... | N. Burns, FSI |
| 5 | Syria, political..... | NE desk officer |

11th week

- 1 Syria, economic N. Burns, FSI
- 2 Iraq, political NE desk officer
- 3 Iraq, economic N. Burns, FSI
Negotiating problems F. Boardman, NE
- 4 Lebanon, political NE desk officer
Lebanon, economic N. Burns, FSI
- 5 Jordan, political NE desk officer
Jordan, economic N. Burns, FSI

12th week

- 1 Sarabia, Yemen, Political NE desk officer
- 2 Sarabia, Yemen, economic N. Burns, FSI
- 3 Constitutional systems, Arab States H. Liebesny, DRN
- 4 Financial systems, Arabic States Polk, Treasury Dept.
- 5 Israeli, political NE desk officer

13th week

- 1 Israeli, economic N. Burns, FSI
- 2 Iran, political OTI desk officer
- 3 Iran, economic E. Gilmore, FSI
- 4 Constitutional systems, Israel and Iran. H. Liebesny, DRN
- 5 Financial systems, Israel and Iran Polk, Treasury Dept.

14th week

- 1 Turkey, political OTI desk officer
- 2 Turkey, economic Cummings, Commerce Dept.
- 3 Financial systems, Turkey Polk, Treasury, Dept.
- 4 Constitutional systems, Turkey H. Liebesny, DRN
- 5 Petroleum in NE R. Funkhouser, NEA

1	Transportation in NE.....	R. Thayer, NEA
2	Labor in NE.....	Labor Dept.
3	Land Tenure Problem.....	Agriculture Dept. and F. Boardman, NE
4	Tariff and Customs policies.....	Sethian, Commerce Dept.
5	Trade patterns.....	Cummings, Commerce Dept.

1-5	USIE program in NE.....	NEA/P and USIE
	Point IV program in NE.....	TCA and S. Dorsey, NE

Reading list for intermediate course (area).

1. Dickson, H.R.P.	The Arab of the Desert
2. Musil, A.	The Manners and Customs of the Revola Bedouins
3. Murray, G.W.	Sons of Ishmael: A Study of the Egyptian Bedouins
4. Raswan, Carl R.	The Black Tents of Arabia
5. Burckhardt, J.L.	Notes on the Bedouins and Wahabys.

1. Grandquist, Hilma Marriage Conditions in a Palestinian Village
2. Grandquist, Hilma Birth and Childhood Among the Arabs
3. Tannous, Afif I. "The Arab Village Community in the Middle East"
Smithsonian Dept. 1943.
4. " " "Emigration, A Force of Social Change in an Arab
Village" Rural Sociology, VII(1942) pp. 62-74.

1. Hurgronje, C. S. Mekka

a. Advanced language course. Approximately 3 contact hours and two study hours a day for ten months of the year, specialized language instruction consisting of (a) reading and analysis of modern documentary materials: newspapers, magazines, government reports, legal and diplomatic documents; (b) planned and free conversation about frequently occurring situations between American officials and Arabs: interview, official visit, negotiation, social conversation; (c) practice in interpreting and in supervising translation.

b. Area studies in the field. About twenty-five percent of the time of the regular course will be devoted to seminars on the area, held twice a week for about 1½ hours each for presentation of material, and one hour more for seminar discussion. Insofar as there is any implication of topics between this course and the FSI course, the material here presented will be of a more advanced nature.

The area seminars will consider the following topics:

(a) Social structure and culture patterns in the Near East

1. Race and population patterning
2. Structure of various Near Eastern communities
3. Religion and philosophy of Arab world
4. Patterns of group behavior

(b) The political and economic institutions

(c) The legal system

(d) Literature

(e) Readings on the area

This part of the area studies would occupy the first eight months, following which would be a two-month period devoted to field study projects.

Field trips -

The field trip will be considered as an integral part of the twelve-month advanced course at the field installation.

There will be one trip for each student which will cover from four to six weeks. The itinerary and study project will be determined in consultation with the Chief of Mission in the area concerned.

The trip will not be merely an extended tour, but will be to a specific local area where the officer will reside for a period of several weeks for study and observation of the locality. He will be assigned a specific study project on which a written report will be prepared. In addition to the written report the officer will give a detailed oral report in a seminar as part of the area study during the last two months.

To obtain the optimum benefit from the trip in regard to increasing proficiency in the language, the officer will travel without any interpreter or other person previously familiar with the area, being required to use the language in all normal situations and for the purpose of gathering the data for his report. On completion of the trip the student will be required to present a prepared speech in Arabic on aspects of the trip.

The last two months of the course would be given to a preparation of reports on the field trips and their presentations in seminars.

5. "Short course" at field installation. Six-week course given four times a year.

a. Three hours a day of language instruction consisting of a specially prepared course in spoken Arabic and an introduction to Arabic writing. This course will be given in three dialects: Lebanese, Egyptian, Iraqi. Special supplementary vocabularies on technical and household topics will be issued.

1st week - useful words and phrases; numbers

2nd week - names, titles, introductions; numbers, cont.

3rd week - geography and politics; place names

4th week - the village

5th week - Americans in the Near East; review

6th week - alphabet; common signs; proper names (written)

b. The area portion of the course will consist of fifteen hours of seminars each week for the six weeks. The seminars will involve two hours of presentation and one hour of discussion each day.

1st week - geography-demography 9 hours
historical background 6 hours

2nd week - social structure - culture patterns to include mores, village, city and tribal structure, religion, etc. 15 hours

3rd week - social structure - culture patterns continued 15 hours

4th week - political and economic institutions 15 hours

5th week - discussion of Point IV in Near East. Role of other American institutions, the UN, and European powers in the Near East such as foundations and schools 15 hours

6th week - day-to-day living in the Near East - dramatized contact situations in eating, interviewing, gifts, bargaining, visits, etc.